

Sept 16 1923

Childhood's Isle
and other Poems.

To Mothers, who doubtless ponder
deep sorrows in their hearts, this little
Book is respectfully inscribed.

Preface.

It appears to the writer that the general tendency of religious thought has been to obscure the light of Divine Teaching that falls upon the peculiar state of Childhood, - to depreciate that which Christ has exalted; an error which has a mischievous effect upon education; & also tends to dull the apprehension of grown-up people to certain Teachings as to their own condition.

The following Verses attempt to bring out a point in her & other of the luminous Teachings, without venturing to deal with the subject in a systematic way.

The 'verse' form has been adopted for the sake of brevity; & also because it is more apt for the expression of tentative theories of life than "premeditated Prose".

May the writer venture to vindicate this function of Verse which does not appear to be of the nature of Poetry!

C. M. M.

Sept 20th 1853

Part I.

In the Kingdom.

"Come ye discipiles unto me, saying, Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

That his teaching might be clear upon this great subject, & as though the Lord had foreseen that "one of these little ones" would be taken to mean something else than a little natural child like any in the streets of Jerusalem, -

"Jesus called a little child unto him & set him in the midst of them, & said, "Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted & become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. "Whoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

"These little ones which believe in Me.

"Who shall offend one of these little ones which believe in Me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, & that he were drowned in the depths of the sea.

"Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face

"of my Father which is in heaven.

"Cupper little children, & forbid them not to come unto me; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

Apparent; despise not; hinder not; herein is the short pedagogic

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Unto us a Child is born.

All his rest is on her arm;
She, his only shield from harm;
She doth his sole meat supply;
All his joy is in her eye.

Helpless, that is not his care;
A burden, she is strong to bear;
Fragile, will not she offend?
Ailing - soft her love shall tend.

Jesus, Saviour, Son of man,
Who camest, Infant of a span,
Was Mary this one Mother mild,
Or art thou ever born a Child? -

My trembling heart doth in me burn,
There, perchance, shall I discover,
She's the State we all defiled,
The tender form of Christ, the Child.

Is there One, a little One,
Who liveth sweetly as a Son,
All his meat, the Father's grace,
All his joy, the Father's face;

Leaving not His gentle State,
Leaving not the ills that wait,
Safe, nor asking why, nor how -
Jesus, then, not I, but Thou!

Other fearsome inmates there,
Evil dragons, giant care;
Hope, joyous, sees them led in throst,
This "Little One" shall rule them all!

Charlotte M. Weston

Motherhood.

I grose where birds, expreasted of their joy
They scarce can fly, do sit along, & sing,
Lab'ring throbbing to tell out the whole,
O Mother, is my heart! Now is the joy
That my bliss comes to many, to the world
Desp'lt of mothers; - and again, see I
Am blessed amongst women! No, not me,
But even thou, my Mother, comprehend'dst
One Heaven over dreined were many cup'filled.

They joy may run for age ev it exceed
The measure of thy treasure;

Thou heart gotten a Man from the Lord.

Therein the grace, the glory! I put the babe
Apart & say, A sinful woman, I.

I Lord! and thou, knie, reverent, to we hand
Of him who knowes the Father more than I.
But not in outer darkness, of my Babe.

Am I, his mother, left: strangely brought in,
(Is it grace to him?) th' abounding life
Of the Kingdom breaks on me; an infantile
Glow, sweet, & joy, & Father's care,
Whiles, Holiness to the Lord, is on the brow
Opening thought that enters.